# CALIFORNIA TRAINING BENEFITS PROGRAM

The California Training Benefits Program is commonly referred to as CTB. This program allows eligible California Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants to receive their UI benefits while attending an approved training/retraining program. Claims for UI benefits are filed with local offices of the California Employment Development Department (EDD).

## Background

Individuals in approved CTB training need not:

- look for work;

- be available for work;

- accept suitable work;

- or be disqualified for leaving work if working prevents them from completing training approved prior to leaving the most recent employment.

## Benefits Available

- CTB benefits take the place of, and are equal to, an individual's regular California UI benefits. CTB may include any federal or state extended benefits.

- Training Extension claims, referred to as TE claims, are available to CTB participants who apply for training no later than the 16th week of receiving their regular California UI claim benefits. Eligibility is based upon the application for CTB while still receiving benefits and prior to the payment of the 17th week of UI benefits, including total and partial payments.

- When in effect, federal extended benefits replace the training extension benefits for CTB participants.

- CTB participants are not reimbursed costs for tuition, books, or other training-related expenses.

## Eligibility Criteria for CTB Benefits

To receive CTB, individuals must be eligible for California UI benefits and be enrolled in, or approved for, training by:

- Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) funded programs

- Employment Training Panel (ETP) funded programs

- Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) recipients enrolled in Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) training contracts

- Former workers of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA/TRA) certified employers

If the CTB applicant enrolls in training approved by one of the above training funded sources, then the applicant will be determined to be CTB eligible by the local EDD field office training specialist.

**Other individuals** who seek and find training that is either paid for by the CTB applicant or by the public school system must:

- Be eligible for California UI benefits;

### AND

- Be unemployed because of plant closure or substantial reduction in employment at the applicant's most recent workplace;

### OR

- Be unemployed due to technological improvements, the effects of automation and relocation in the economy;

## Eligibility Criteria for CTB Benefits (cont.)

**OR**

- Be unemployed and unable to utilize occupational skills as a result of mental or physical disability;

**OR**

- Be unemployed four or more continuous weeks and lack competitive skills to compete in the job market;

**AND**

- Apply and enroll for training in an occupation that is in demand in the individual's local labor market or be willing to relocate within California;

**AND**

- Complete a training course within one year, including scheduled breaks and vacation periods;

**AND**

- Attend training full-time as defined by the school and EDD, but not primarily to obtain a degree;

**AND**

- The training course must be full-time (EDD considers full-time to be not less than 20 hours or 12 units per semester or quarter);

**AND**

- Participate in the program only if it has been three years or more since the beginning date of prior CTB approval.

Applicants not previously approved for job training by the Job Training Partnership Act, Employment Training Panel, Greater Avenues for Independence, or Trade Adjustment Assistance must meet all of the above-listed criteria in order to qualify for CTB.

## Approval Authority for CTB

A training specialist in the local office of the Employment Development Department determines the applicant's eligibility for CTB and TE claims, based upon legislation contained in Article 1.5 of the California Unemployment Insurance Code (CUIC) Sections 1269 and 1271, respectively.

*For more information, contact your nearest EDD Job Service office, listed under "Employment Development Department" in the State Government section of your telephone directory.*